



DIMBAL STATS MANAGER

ADMIN USER GUIDE



[HTTP://WWW.DIMBAL.COM](http://www.dimbal.com)

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Introduction

Congratulations! You have just purchased one of the most powerful custom Stats Management solutions available today. Let's get started installing and setting up your application.

The Dimbal Stats Manager was engineered to be powerful, feature rich and yet easy to implement. With just a small snippet of code you can include the Stats Manager anywhere on your website.

The Dimbal Stats Manager is designed to be a very light weight stats recording system. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to record simple stat hit actions within your application so that you can gain valuable insights into your sites performance and usage.

An example of how the Dimbal Stats Manager can be used: Add a call to record a stats every time a message is displayed to a user, then add a subsequent call to the stats system when a user closes or interacts with the message. This will allow you to see how effective your messages and prompts are for your user base.

The Dimbal Stats Manager is written using the PHP and MySQL. Many web hosts support PHP and MySQL (they are free open source technologies). If your web host does not support PHP and MySQL please contact us for assistance in finding a web host that does.

Support is available for you along the road as you use the Dimbal Stats Manager. If you get stuck or need any help, please just visit <http://www.dimbal.com/support> for any help or assistance.

The Dimbal Stats Manager is directed and enhanced based upon user feedback. Please do not hesitate to submit ideas or feature suggestions.

Don't forget to visit <http://www.dimbal.com> for other great software products.

It is my hope that you enjoy using the Dimbal Stats Manager. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can help with.

Thank you

Ben Hall
Dimbal Software

Dimbal Stats Manager Features

The Dimbal Stats Manager is engineered to be a robust Stats Management application. It is feature rich and packed with options that allow flexibility and customization. Below is just a high level overview of some of the features found within the Dimbal Stats Manager.

Have a feature suggestion? Visit <http://www.dimbal.com> to submit it.

- Money Back Guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied with your purchase we will give you a refund - plain and simple.
- One-Time Purchase. There are no renewal fees or subscription fees. Once you purchase the software you can deploy it with your web application.
- Support. Need help? Support is available via online forums, documentation and e-mail inquiries.
- Administration Panel. A powerful administration panel is provided to assist in the administering of your software.
- 5 Levels of Data Recording. The stat hits support up to 5 levels of taxonomy recording allow you to create very granular and high level reports.
- Sampling built in. If you have a particular stat scenario being called frequently you can utilize the sampling feature to get accurate results while reducing server load.
- Unlimited Stats. The system has no limit on the number of stat records that can be stored in the system at one time.
- Count Based Reporting. See an exact count of how many hits a counter (and all it's children) have received for a given period of time.
- Count Comparison. Find discrepancies and drop offs within your site by comparing stats against each other.
- User Event Tracking Report. See the exact counter stats for a single user (ordered by timestamp) to understand exactly what that user is doing on your site.

Installation

Downloaded Files

Your software is available via Instant Download. This means that your entire software package will be available for download immediately after purchasing. The software is currently not shipped on a CD. If you would like a CD archive, one can be purchased by contacting us.

Once you have completed your purchase you should receive a download link to your software. This link will be displayed on the confirmation page once your purchase has completed. You will also receive the link via e-mail immediately upon purchase completion.

Trouble receiving your E-Mail? E-mails can often be delayed by up to ~15 mins. E-mails can also often be caught by spam filters. Please check your spam filters for the e-mail if you cannot find it.

If you did not receive your download link please contact us at <http://www.dimbal.com/support> for assistance in locating your receipt.

Once you have the download link you should be able to download a ZIP file that contains all the files you will need. Unzip this archive file to a spot on your computer.

Browsing the Included Files

There are several files included with your software purchase.

File	Description
dsm.zip	This is the main collection of files and code that make your software function. Unzip this collection of files but do not alter it's organization of folder structure. More on these files will be explained below.
DSM-Manual.pdf	This is the User Manual for installing and using the software. Please read it carefully before installing and using the software.
dsm_sql.zip	This is the MySQL database script that will need to be run to setup the database. If you do not have access to your database then

	you will need your web administrator to run it against your web application.
readme.txt	A simple readme document describing the included files.

System Requirements

Before you try to install the software it is important to verify that your web host meets the proper specifications. This software is written using the LAMP stack. Which means that it is written in PHP and MySQL and requires a Linux and Apache based web host.

Please verify that your web host supports PHP and MySQL applications. If they do not - please contact us for assistance in finding a web host that does.

This software is designed to run on multiple versions of PHP and MySQL. However for proper compatibility and optimal performance we recommend the following minimum versions:

- PHP: 5.4.x
- MySQL: 5.5.x

Installing the Code

Your first step is to install the code onto your web host. This can be achieved using a simple copy and paste action or an FTP client. We will walk you through the basic steps.

1. Unzip the dsm.zip archive to a destination on your computer.
2. Be sure not to alter the contents within the resulting folder. You can move the folder as a whole, but do not move the internal contents of the folder.
3. Copy the folder into a destination of your choice on your web host. This step is often accomplished using an FTP client to copy files to your web host. (If you need assistance you will need to contact your web administrator or web host). We often recommend to place it at the root level for your domain. (So if your domain is <http://example.com> then the code would be located at <http://example.com/dsm>)
4. You should now be able to open a browser and navigate to a setup landing page using the directory you choose in the step above. This landing page is called "setup.php" and is at the root of the folder structure. (For example: <http://example.com/dsm/setup.php>). The setup landing page will look something similar to the below image.

Application Setup Page

IMPORTANT! For security reasons, please remove this file from your deployment after setting up the Application.

Setup Steps

Step 1 : Connect to the Servers

Please enter your Server information below and then hit save. Your WebHost should have your MySQL Database connection information easily available for you.

The URL to the Installation Folder (with trailing /): <i>EX: http://www.dimbal.com/install-folder/</i>	<input type="text" value="http://www.example.com"/>
Database Server Address: <i>EX: localhost</i>	<input type="text" value="not-set-yet"/>
Database Name: <i>EX: database_name</i>	<input type="text" value="not-set-yet"/>
Database Login User Name: <i>EX: login_username</i>	<input type="text" value="not-set-yet"/>
Database Login Password: <i>EX: login_password</i>	<input type="text" value="not-set-yet"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Connecting to the Servers

If you successfully see the setup.php page then it is now time to setup your config file so the application knows how to connect to your website and database.

NOTE: Before doing any interactions with any production or sensitive databases it is advised to make a backup of any existing data and or setups.

Installation URL. The installation URL is filled out for you. This is the URL location of where the Dimbal code was installed to. Please double check that the provided URL value is correct.

NOTE: Please ensure a trailing slash "/" is included on the end of the URL.

Database Information. The Dimbal Stats Manager needs a MySQL Database to run against. Generally this Database is setup by your webhost. Please consult your webhost account for the

connection information. There are 4 pieces of information that we need to proceed.

1. Database Server Address. The server address for your database. This might be “localhost” or an IP address “192.168.0.1” or a domain name “database.myhost.com”.
2. Database Name. This is the name of the MySQL Database that we should connect to.
3. MySQL Login Username. A username for a MySQL user account to login to the database.
4. MySQL Login Password. An associated password for the MySQL user account above.

Hit the “Submit” button to save this information. You should then be presented with the second step of the installation process.

NOTE: If an error occurs with the Installation URL an error similar to the one below will appear. Please confirm that the URL entered is correct.

The URL Defined did not return as successful. Please verify the installation folder.

The URL to the Installation Folder (with trailing /): EX: http://www.dimbal.com/install-folder/	<input type="text" value="http://bad-url/"/>
--	--

NOTE: If an error occurs connecting to the Database it will present a message similar to the one below. Please double check the values entered in the provided fields, the majority of the problems at this stage are from incorrect Database login information.

We were unable to connect to your MySQL Database using the provided information. Please verify the connection information below.

The URL to the Installation Folder (with trailing /): EX: http://www.dimbal.com/install-folder/	<input type="text" value="http://www.example.com/"/>
Database Server Address: EX: localhost	<input type="text" value="localhost"/>
Database Name: EX: database_name	<input type="text" value="bad-db-name"/>
Database Login User Name: EX: login_username	<input type="text" value="user"/>
Database Login Password: EX: login_password	<input type="text" value="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

NOTE: If you have continued trouble with connecting to your Database, please contact our support team at <http://www.dimbal.com/support>. Please provide the 5 values above so that we can diagnose connection issues.

Setting up the User Account and Database tables.

Now that the Installation URL is set and we can connect to your database it is now time to create the Admin User and the other Database tables. You can do this by using Step 2 on the setup.php page. This will look like the following:

Application Setup Page

IMPORTANT! For security reasons, please remove this file from your deployment after setting up the Application.

Setup Steps

Step 1 : Connect to the Servers :: COMPLETED

Step 2 : Create the Admin Account

Once installed, use the form below to setup the default Admin User.

Admin Email:	<input type="text"/>
Admin Password (6 or more characters):	<input type="password"/>
<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>	

All Done : Login to the Application

Fill out the form to create the admin user.

- Admin Email: Enter the email address for the main Admin User. This e-mail address is also the username to login to the system.
- Admin Password: Enter the password for the main Admin User.

NOTE: The password must be at least 6 characters in length, otherwise an error will be shown such as the one in the following example:

The password provided was too short. Please provide a password at least 6 characters in length.

Admin Email:	<input type="text" value="example@dimbal.com"/>
Admin Password (6 or more characters):	<input type="password" value="123"/>
<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>	

When you hit submit several things will happen behind the scenes:

- The Database tables for the application will be created within the Database.
- The Admin user will be installed using the credentials you provided above.
- Sample data for the application will be created.

If these actions cannot be performed then an error message will be displayed. An example of this error message is below:

There was an error creating the Database Tables / Installing the first User Account. If the MySQL User Account provided does not have CREATE TABLE permissions please see the User Guide for manual installation of the Database Tables.

Admin Email:	<input type="text"/>
Admin Password (6 or more characters):	<input type="password"/>
<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>	

This can often be caused by the MySQL User not having proper permissions to create tables on the designated database. If this occurs you have two options to work around this.

1. You can try connecting to the Database with a different MySQL user account, such as one that has proper permissions as outlined in the permissions section above.
2. You can follow the section below entitled “Manually Installing the Database Tables” to connect directly to your MySQL host and install the tables manually.

Installation Cleanup

Once you are able to successfully connect to the Database and the Database tables have been setup properly, you should see the following screen indicated that the installation has completed.

Application Setup Page

IMPORTANT! For security reasons, please remove this file from your deployment after setting up the Application.

Setup Steps

Step 1 : Connect to the Servers :: COMPLETED

Step 2 : Create the Admin Account :: COMPLETED

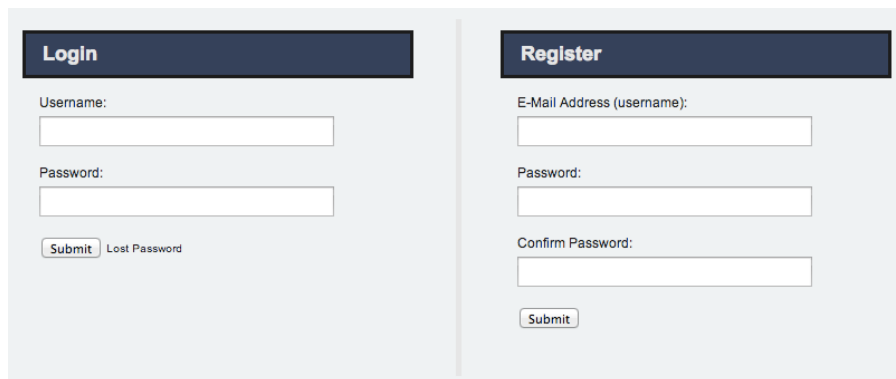
All Done : Login to the Application

All Done! Additional settings can be changed from the Admin -> App Settings menu.

Hit continue to remove this setup file and to go to the login screen.

[Continue to Login to Application](#)

When you hit the Continue button you will be redirected to login page. The setup.php file will also be deleted from the web installation. Once redirect you should see a login page similar to following:



The image shows two side-by-side forms on a light blue background. The left form is titled 'Login' in a dark blue header. It contains two input fields: 'Username:' and 'Password:'. Below the password field is a 'Submit' button and a link for 'Lost Password'. The right form is titled 'Register' in a dark blue header. It contains three input fields: 'E-Mail Address (username):', 'Password:', and 'Confirm Password:'. Below the confirm password field is a 'Submit' button.

Enter the Username and Password you choose during the setup process into the Login Form. Hit submit and you should now be logged into the application.

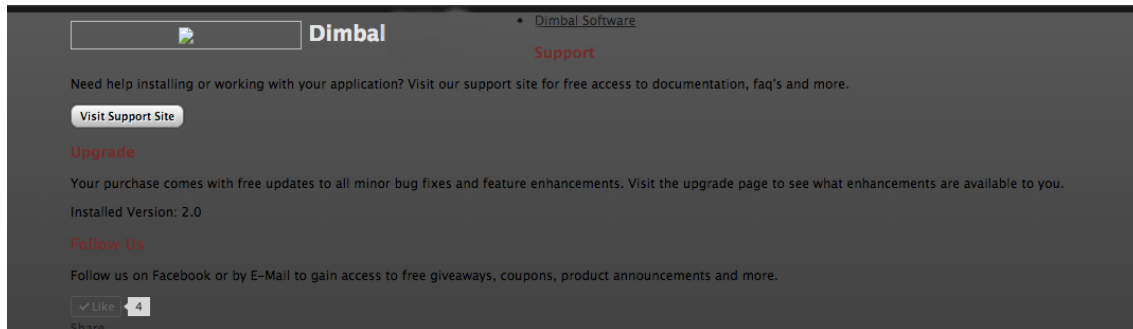
Congratulations! You have now successfully installed the Dimbal Stats Manager. In later sections we will discuss how you can further customize your application.

Installation Troubleshooting

Our goal is to make the installation process as simple and painless as possible. However we understand that some webhosts and web servers are setup very differently and may require specialized tweaking. The following sub sections hope to outline some of the common issues that may be run into depending on your web host settings.

Black Display on the Login Page

Upon completing the setup process you will be redirected to the login page. If the login page is mostly black and looks similar to following there may be an issue with your installation url. An example of this is below:



This is caused by a bad Installation URL. If the setup.php page is still on your webserver you can use that page to correct the issue.

You can also correct this issue manually by editing the config file. Use the following steps to manually edit the config file.

1. Download the following file to your local computer: “/includes/inc.configRuntime.php”
2. Within this file you should see a declaration similar to the following:

```
addDefine('URL_ROOT','http://bad-url/dimbal/');
```

3. Change the URL value to be the full URL to where your application is installed to. Be sure to include the trailing “/” at the end of the url.
4. Upload this file back to your web server.

Manually Installing the Database Tables.

If you were able to go through the setup page without any issues then you do not need to pay attention to this section.

If you received an error trying to setup the admin user you may need to manually install the Database Tables.

There was an error creating the Database Tables / Installing the first User Account. If the MySQL User Account provided does not have CREATE TABLE permissions please see the User Guide for manual installation of the Database Tables.

Admin Email:	<input type="text"/>
Admin Password (6 or more characters):	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

This section will help you achieve this. To manually install the database tables please following the steps below.

1. Unzip the dsm_sql.zip archive to a spot on your computer.
2. Run the SQL statements contained within the archive against your database. This step will vary depending on what tools your web host has made available to you. We will provide a couple different options below for you to choose from.

Option 1 - Copy and Paste the SQL Statements

One option is to copy and paste the SQL statements into a MySQL administration tool such as PHPMyAdmin.

1. Open the PhpMyAdmin tool (or other MySQL Administration tool) provided by your webhost.
2. Navigate to the Database you want to use. You will need to select the database in order to use it.
 - a. If a Database does not exist then you may need to create it. Instructions for this will vary depending on the MySQL Administration tool being used.
3. Once you are in the Database you want to use there should be a SQL command box that you can enter SQL commands into. The image below provides an example of this command box within a Database called "localhost":



4. Open the SQL file mentioned earlier that is contained in the archive.
5. Copy the entire block of code found within that SQL file. The SQL block of code will look something similar to the following:

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS `dimbalExample` (  
  `id` int(11) unsigned NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,  
  `email` varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
  `data` mediumblob,  
  PRIMARY KEY (`id`, `email`)  
) ENGINE=InnoDB DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8;
```

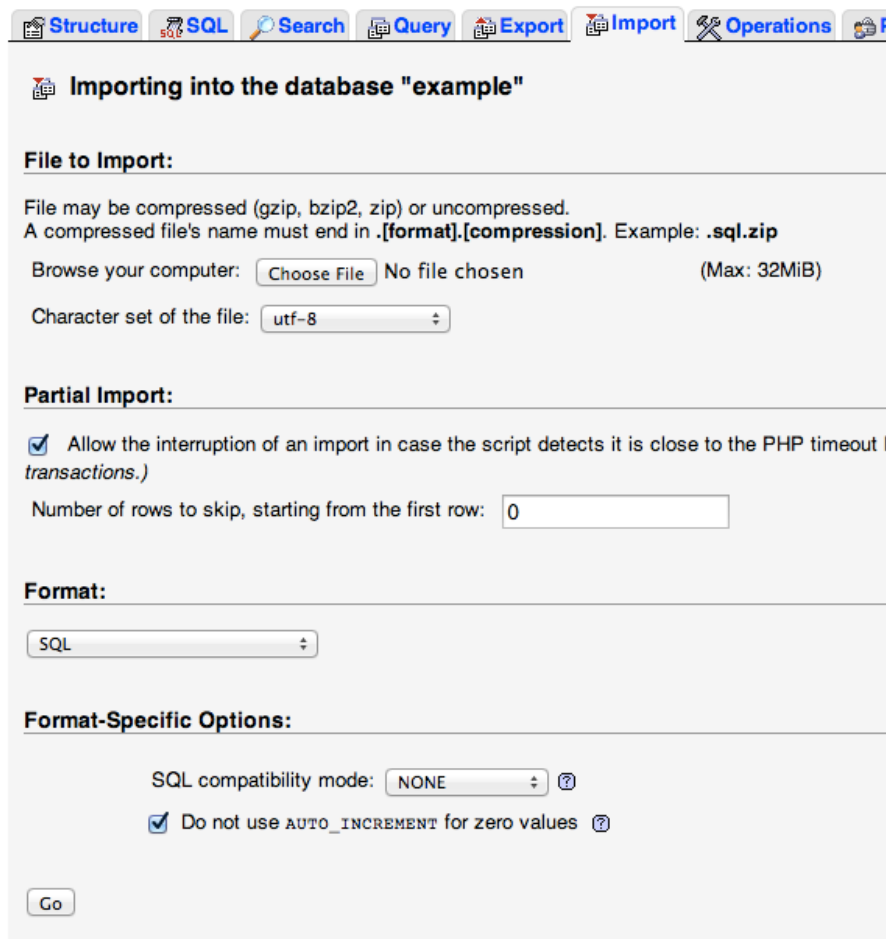
6. Paste the entire block of code into the PhpMyAdmin SQL command box
7. Press “enter” or “execute” (or whatever submit button is present) to run the SQL commands against your Database
8. A Status message should appear indicating that the SQL commands were either successful or failed.

Option 2 - Running the SQL File

An alternate method to setting up the Database tables manually is to have your MySQL Admin tool execute the SQL file directly. This is very similar to the above process, we will explain it below.

1. Open the PhpMyAdmin tool (or other MySQL Administration tool) provided by your webhost.
2. Navigate to the Database you want to use. You will need to select the database in order to use it.
 - a. If a Database does not exist then you may need to create it. Instructions for this will vary depending on the MySQL Administration tool being used.
3. Once you are in the Database you want to use there should be an option to run an

external SQL file. This is often considered an “IMPORT”. Select this option. The image below shows an example of the Import options.



The screenshot shows a web interface for importing data into a database. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Structure, SQL, Search, Query, Export, Import (selected), and Operations. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is "Importing into the database 'example'".

File to Import:

File may be compressed (gzip, bzip2, zip) or uncompressed.
A compressed file's name must end in **.[format].[compression]**. Example: **.sql.zip**

Browse your computer: No file chosen (Max: 32MiB)

Character set of the file:

Partial Import:

☒ Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout (transactions.)

Number of rows to skip, starting from the first row:

Format:

Format-Specific Options:

SQL compatibility mode:

☒ Do not use AUTO_INCREMENT for zero values

4. Using the File selector, navigate to the SQL file provided with the application and choose it.
5. Validate any other options that may be present, such as ensuring that the file is interpreted as a SQL file, if that option exists.
6. Hit “submit” or “enter” or whatever submit button is present.
7. A Status message should appear indicating that the SQL commands were either successful or failed.

Option 3 - Web Administrator Assistance

If the options above have all failed, then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us for support. It may be necessary that we ask your web host for assistance if there are in fact permission issues or other restrictions.

If you want to contact your webhost for assistance you can provide them with the SQL file that came with the application. If you start a support ticket with them you can use the following verbiage to help them understand the request.

To: < My Web Host >,

I would like to ask for assistance setting up a new PHP/MySQL application on my web server. The url to the installed application is: [http:// << Enter-Your-Install-URL >>](http://<< Enter-Your-Install-URL >>)

Specifically, I would like to ask for assistance setting up the Database for this application. Attached to this message I have provided the SQL file that contains the sql statements to create the database tables. Please run it against my database.

Also, can you please confirm for me what the Database Server Address, the Database Name, the MySQL Login Username and the associated Login Password is.

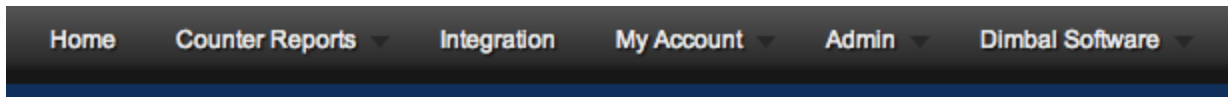
Thank you.

Your web host should have no trouble running the associated SQL file. If they do for whatever reason, please contact our support team.

Basic Navigation

The Dimbal Stats Manager is designed to be easy to use and fast to navigate. A powerful navigation bar allows for fast movement across the various tools and components of the application.


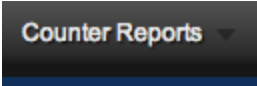
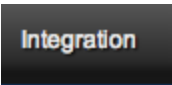
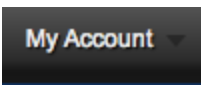
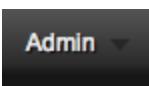
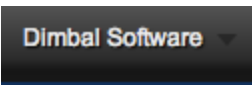
Below is the Navigation bar that Admin users will see:



Below is the Navigation Bar that non Admin users will see:




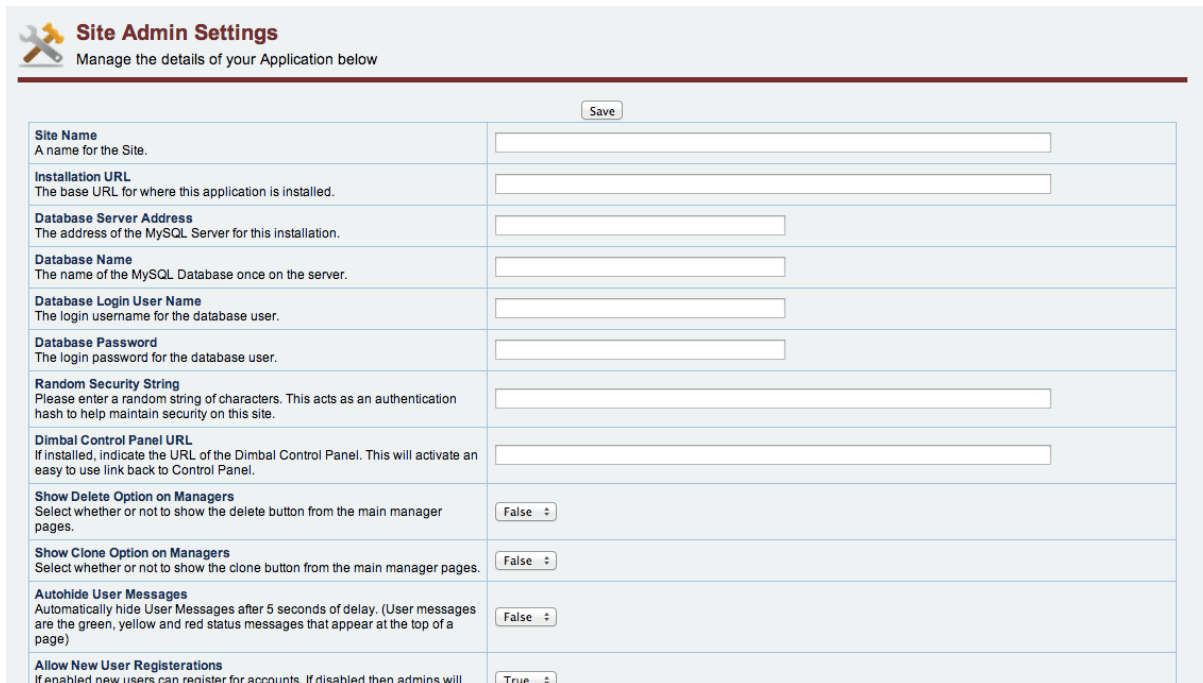
Below is a brief description of what each tab is designed for.

	Returns you to the main dashboard for the application.
	Build reports on total counter traffic, counter comparisons as well as user progression reports.
	Provides a guide on how to integrate the Dimbal Stats Manager as well as best practices and example uses of the data.
	Access and change settings relating to your account such as changing your login e-mail and login password
	Allows Admin users to modify application settings as well as manage user accounts
	Access support services, reach the main Dimbal homepage and get other assistance.

Customizing Application Settings

The Dimbal Stats Manager comes with a powerful Application Settings control panel that allows you to adjust various application settings. using this control panel you can enable and disable features, customize the look and feel and many other options.

Access this feature by going to the Admin Menu  and then selecting “Application Settings”. You should see a page that looks similar to the following image:



The screenshot shows the 'Site Admin Settings' page. At the top left is a wrench and screwdriver icon next to the title 'Site Admin Settings' and the subtitle 'Manage the details of your Application below'. A 'Save' button is located at the top right of the settings table. The table contains the following settings:

Setting Name	Description	Value
Site Name	A name for the Site.	<input type="text"/>
Installation URL	The base URL for where this application is installed.	<input type="text"/>
Database Server Address	The address of the MySQL Server for this installation.	<input type="text"/>
Database Name	The name of the MySQL Database once on the server.	<input type="text"/>
Database Login User Name	The login username for the database user.	<input type="text"/>
Database Password	The login password for the database user.	<input type="password"/>
Random Security String	Please enter a random string of characters. This acts as an authentication hash to help maintain security on this site.	<input type="text"/>
Dimbal Control Panel URL	If installed, indicate the URL of the Dimbal Control Panel. This will activate an easy to use link back to Control Panel.	<input type="text"/>
Show Delete Option on Managers	Select whether or not to show the delete button from the main manager pages.	<input type="button" value="False"/>
Show Clone Option on Managers	Select whether or not to show the clone button from the main manager pages.	<input type="button" value="False"/>
Autohide User Messages	Automatically hide User Messages after 5 seconds of delay. (User messages are the green, yellow and red status messages that appear at the top of a page)	<input type="button" value="False"/>
Allow New User Registrations	If enabled new users can register for accounts. If disabled then admins will	<input type="button" value="True"/>


You can change various settings to manipulate how your application looks and feels. You can also use this page to enable and disable various features. For example you can choose to Allow new user registrations or to turn this feature off.

Integrating the Dimbal Stats Manager

Integrating the Dimbal Stats Manager is fast and easy. Below are basic instruction to include the software and call into the counter functions.

Step 1. Include the PHP base file.

The first thing we need to do is to include the base file of code for the Dimbal Stats Manager. This is achieved by making a PHP `include_once` call. We advise loading it early and in some sort of global fashion to ease with implementation.

Within the Dimbal Stats Manager, visit the Integration tab in the menu bar . On that page you will find a sample of what the include statement should look like for your installation. An example of the include statement might look like the following:

```
<?php include_once("/path/to/your/website/dsm/client/include.php"); ?>
```

The include path is broken into two parts, the first part is the path to the installation of the Dimbal Stats Manager. The second part is to the `/client/include.php` file located within your Dimbal Stats Manager installation.

The use of relative paths is acceptable if the physical location may be altered or changed.

You have now integrated with the Dimbal Stats Manager. :)

Step 2. Add Stats calls as appropriate in your code.

Now that we have integrated with the Dimbal Stats Manager, it is now up to us to use it in some fashion that is useful and intelligent. Ultimately this step will be up to you to decide how best to use the Dimbal Stats Manager.

There are two principle stats calls that can be made into the Dimbal Stats Manager.

Count Calls

The heart of the Dimbal Stats Manager is in its ability to track actions and events by recording calls into the Count table. Think of these calls as a “Hit Rate” style logging system. The Count calls have 3 principal components.

1. Unique ID: Allows you to associate the call with a unique ID such as a user id.
2. Value: Allows you to record a “Count Value” with the call.

3. V1, V2, V3, V4, V5: A 5 level taxonomy system which allows you to group your stats into logical buckets to assist with summary based reporting.

Below is a sample of the base usage of the Dimbal Stats Manager Count call

```
<?php DSM::count('uniqueId', value, 'v1', 'v2', 'v3', 'v4', 'v5'); ?>
```

That is all that is needed to record a count call into the Dimbal Stats Manager

Count Sample Calls

The count sample calls work just like the regular count calls, with the exception that they allow 1 extra parameter. A Sampling Rate. The sampling rate allows you to make very frequent counter calls, without having the headache of undue stress on your database.

Think of the sample rate as “1 call in X attempts”. This is the basic rule for the sampling rate provided to the function. In other words, if you pass a sample rate of 100 and you call the function 3,000 times, you will only record approximately 30 records.

When a sampled call is recorded the “value” parameter is multiple by the sample rate so that the real value (+/-) is presented properly in reports.

We recommend making the Counter Sample calls for counter stats that receive more then 1,000 hits per day. We recommend using a sample rate of approx 5% or less of the total volume. If you use a sample rate of higher than 10% you may not receive accurate sampling results unless the frequency is very high.

Below is a sample of the base usage of the Dimbal Stats Manager Count Sample call.

```
<?php DSM::countSample(rate, 'uniqueId', value, 'v1', 'v2', 'v3', 'v4', 'v5'); ?>
```

Dimbal Stats Manager Examples

The uses of the Dimbal Stats Manager are really endless. Below are a few simple ways that the Dimbal Stats Manager can be used to track low level detail about your website.

Basic Count Call Example - Login Source

Let's assume you have two different locations where a user can login. One from a dedicated login page and another from the header of your website. If you wanted to track when users login via these 2 different locations, you might utilize the following two different Dimbal Stats Manager Count calls (assuming the User ID is stored in a variable named "\$userId").

When a user logs in via the Login page:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'source', 'login-page', ""); ?>
```

When a user logs in via the Header bar:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'source', 'header-menu', ""); ?>
```

You can then do Sum and Comparison based reports to view how many total logins occur from each of the locations.

Extended Count Call Example - Login Errors

The real benefit of the Dimbal Stats Manager is its ability to capture all sorts of custom stats and activity. In addition, the 5 level taxonomy allows you great flexibility to organize your stats across your website.

For example. If we wanted to expand the Login example from above we may also want to include the following stats counters relating to possible errors that may occur during the login process.

When a user types in a bad password:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'errors', 'bad-password', ""); ?>
```

When a user types in a bad username:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'source', 'bad-username', ""); ?>
```

When a user forgets to type in a username:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'source', 'forgot-username', ""); ?>
```

When a user forgets to type in a password:

```
<?php DSM::count($userId, 1, 'user-actions', 'logins', 'source', 'forgot-password', ""); ?>
```

When you analyze this data you might find that one of them has a much higher frequency rate than the others. Let's assume that the "forgot-password" counter call has a much higher frequency rate. You may want to consider adding a client side (javascript) validation check to your login box to ensure that data is present. This could make the login process faster and less frustrating for you users.

Basic Count Sample Call Example - Related Article Ads

For this example let's assume that you have a sidebar on the right hand side of your site. Within this sidebar you present 5 other articles previews in a random fashion. This encourages users to click and read other articles found on your site.

The tricky part is that you can't calculate an exact click through ratio for this content because you don't know how often the link is presented or clicked. You can achieve this using the Dimbal Stats Manager.

For this basic example let's look at recording the display of the Article ads. Your site receives over 10,000 hits a day, and you display 5 random articles to each hit, so you are looking at a potential of ~50,000 stats hits. This would be a good example of when a Count Sample call can be used.

For this type of example we want to make sure the sampling rate is effective. If we have 30,000 potential stat hits a day and 120 articles, that is a rate of approx 12 stat hits per article. Let's start with a sample rate of 10, then increase the rate appropriately if needed. At a sampling rate of 10 we will record approx 3,000 stat records in total averaging about 12 stat records per article.

To implement this, simply add a stat call for each of the 5 articles when their preview is displayed. Let's assume that the article id's are stored into variables named \$aid1, \$aid2, and \$aid3.

```
<?php
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'sidebar', 'displays', $aid1, "");
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'sidebar', 'displays', $aid2, "");
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'sidebar', 'displays', $aid3, "");
?>
```

Let's expand this example to assume that we also have a list of related articles at the bottom of the page. In this related article list you may have 3 completely different articles listed. Let's assume their ids are stored in variables named \$aid4, \$aid5 and \$aid6.

In this example it would be valuable to know which article id's are displayed where. In the previous example you used the display location within the taxonomy, so we can just expand that taxonomy to include these footer links.

```
<?php
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'footer', 'displays', $aid4, "");
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'footer', 'displays', $aid5, "");
DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'footer', 'displays', $aid6, "");
?>
```

Extended Count Sample Call Example - Related Article Ad Click Rate

In the previous example we setup count sample calls for links to articles on our site. These links are presented in two different locations for the user. We now want to understand how these different links perform.

One easy and powerful way to extend the Dimbal Stats Manager is to use parameters passed from page to page to record information about a user's behaviour. In this example we are going to create an extra parameter to pass along with these related ad links.

On each of the links in let's add a param named "iref" (which stands for Internal Referral). Set the value of this parameter to the desired name of the menu, as appropriate. For our 2 related article lists we might use "sidebar" and "footer".

A couple examples of a link on the sidebar to article with id 25 might look like this:

"http://my-site.com/article.php?id=25&iref=sidebar"

"http://my-site.com/article-25.php?iref=sidebar"

Then we simply need to check for the presence of the iref parameter and log it as appropriate. Below is a code sample checking for the parameter and logging it into the Dimbal Stats Manager (assuming the article id is stored in a variable named \$aid).

```
<?php
if(array_key_exists('iref',$_REQUEST)){
    $iref = $_REQUEST['iref'];
    DSM::countSample(10, "", 1, 'related-article-ads', 'sidebar', 'clicks', $aid, "");
}
?>
```

Using this data you can now build reports to get information on which related articles are clicked on the most. You may want to consider removing the articles with the lowest click rate from the display rotation. These articles are clearly not interesting to users as their click rate is so low.

Extended Count Sample Call Example - Related Article Referral Source

Now let's take this even a step further. We now have a click through ratio that can be calculated for each article, according to each article location. Let's now assume that we want to know which articles refer to which articles.

This can be achieved again by adding a parameter to the ad url and then catching and recording it on the destination page.

Let's add the param "sai" which stands for "Source Article ID". If we are on article id 33 and we are creating a link to article 25 from the sidebar our links may look similar to the following examples:

"http://my-site.com/article.php?id=25&iref=sidebar&sai=33"

"http://my-site.com/article-25.php?iref=sidebar&sai=33"

As before with our "iref" example, we now just simply need to check for this parameter and record it as appropriate. (assuming the article id is stored in a variable named \$aid)

```
<?php
if(array_key_exists('sai',$_REQUEST)){
    $sai = $_REQUEST['sai'];
    DSM::countSample(10, '', 1, 'related-article-ads', 'sidebar', 'referrals', $aid, $sai);
}
?>
```

Using this data you can now build reports to get detailed information on which articles refer the most to other articles. Using this information, you may want to consider adding a permanent link to a certain article from it's highest referral source.


Managing Users

As an administrator you have the ability to manage users assigned into the application. There are two levels of user accounts detailed in the table below:

ROLE	DESCRIPTION
User	Full control over all reports as well as viewing the integration Guide.
Admin	All User Role permissions. Also has ability to change application settings and has full control over all User objects.

Let's spend some time going over how to add and edit users within the application.

User Manager


Access the User Manager from the Admin tab  in the navigation bar. Then select "Manage Users". You should see a list of currently registered users within the application such as the example below:



The screenshot shows the 'User Manager' interface. At the top left is a user icon and the title 'User Manager' with the subtitle 'Manager your users.' At the top right is a 'Create New' button. Below the header is a 'Show 10 entries' dropdown and a 'Filter Results:' search box. The main area contains a table with columns: ID, Status, Edit, Email, Name, and Created Date. There are two rows of user data. At the bottom, it says 'Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries' and has pagination arrows.

ID	Status	Edit	Email	Name	Created Date
1			admin@dimbal.com		Dec 18, 2013
2			user@dimbal.com		Dec 28, 2013

Let's explore the various parts of the User manager. Throughout the application and other Dimbal Software applications management tables follow a similar organization so as to make administering the different parts of the application as easy as possible.

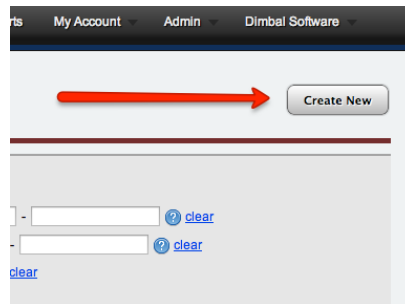


This screenshot is the same as the previous one but with five red boxes and numbers highlighting specific UI elements: 1. 'Create New' button, 2. 'Filter Results:' search box, 3. 'Show 10 entries' dropdown, 4. 'Edit' column header and its corresponding edit icons, 5. pagination arrows at the bottom.

1. Create New Button. This is a quick access button to easily create a new User
2. Filter Field. This is a quick search utility that allows you to search for Users according to the Email or Name.
3. Pagination Size. This allows you to set how large of a pagination scheme the manager should use.
4. Edit Button. This allows you to edit a particular record.
5. Pagination Controls. Use these controls to move from page to page within the list of installed users.

Create a User

To create a new User you can select the “Create New” button from the User Manager Dashboard.

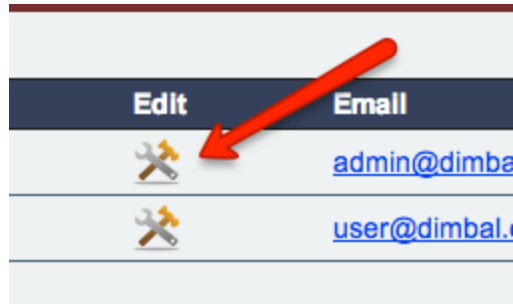


After you have selected to create a new Banner you will be taken to an edit page without any information on it. This will be the template for your new Banner. More details on editing your Banner will be covered in the next section.

Alternatively, users can register for accounts if that setting is enabled within the application settings. By default applications ship with this setting enabled. You may or may not want to change this setting.


Editing a User

To edit your User you need to select the edit button within the Banner Manager.



Alternatively if you select to create a new User then you will be automatically taken to the User editor.

When the User editor is brought up it should look something like this:

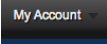

User Editor
 Manage the details of a User Account below
 delete

ID	2
Email Address The users email address	<input type="text" value="user@dimbal.com"/>
Password The users password. Only enter a value to change the password.	<input type="password"/>
Status Select whether this User is active or inactive	Active
User Permission Level Select the Level for this User	User
Created Date The date the User was created on	<input type="text" value="12/28/2013"/> insert today
First Name The users first name	<input type="text" value="Dimbal"/>
Last Name The users last name	<input type="text" value="User"/>

Save

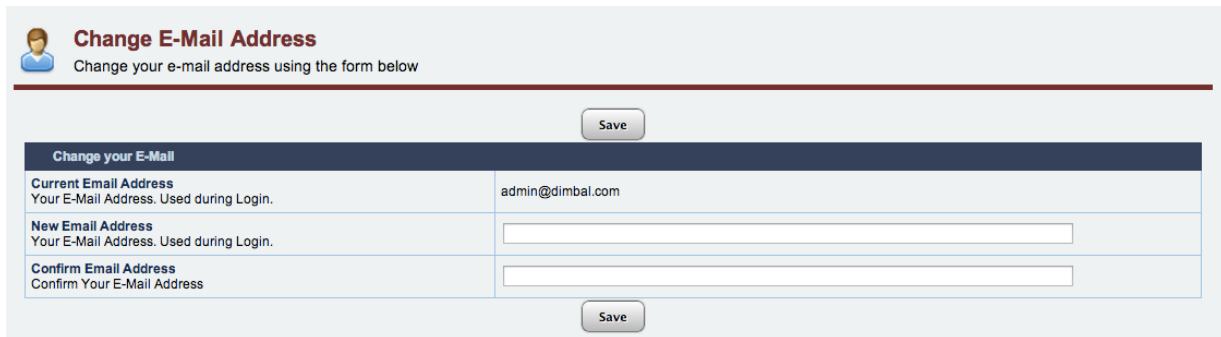
The left hand side of the editor holds the name of the fields that can be manipulated. Underneath the name is a brief explanation of what each feature does. On the right hand side is where you can change or enter the appropriate value for each item.

Managing your Account

Users can administer their own account with ease. This can be done by accessing the “My Account” tab  on the navigation bar. Using this menu they can select the change user properties such as their login email or the password.

Changing User Login E-Mail

Select the “Change Email” option from the “My Account” tab on the navigation bar. A screen similar to the following will then be presented.



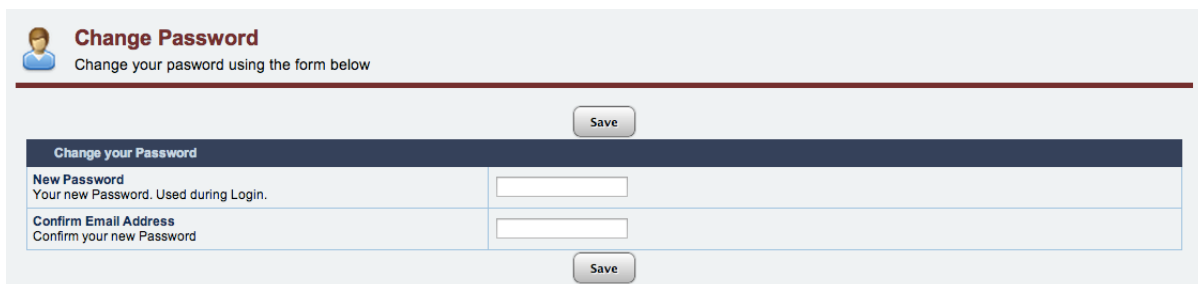
The form is titled "Change E-Mail Address" with a user icon. Below the title is the instruction "Change your e-mail address using the form below". A "Save" button is located above the form fields. The form itself has a dark header "Change your E-Mail" and contains three rows of input fields. The first row is for the "Current Email Address" (labeled "Your E-Mail Address. Used during Login.") with the value "admin@dimbal.com". The second row is for the "New Email Address" (labeled "Your E-Mail Address. Used during Login.") with an empty text input field. The third row is for the "Confirm Email Address" (labeled "Confirm Your E-Mail Address") with an empty text input field. A "Save" button is located below the form fields.

Change your E-Mail	
Current Email Address Your E-Mail Address. Used during Login.	admin@dimbal.com
New Email Address Your E-Mail Address. Used during Login.	<input type="text"/>
Confirm Email Address Confirm Your E-Mail Address	<input type="text"/>

Use this form to enter a new E-Mail address to use as your user login. Please note that after changing your user email you will be logged out and will need to re-login again.

Changing User Password

Select the “Change Password” option from the “My Account” tab on the navigation bar. A screen similar to the following will then be presented.



The form is titled "Change Password" with a user icon. Below the title is the instruction "Change your pasword using the form below". A "Save" button is located above the form fields. The form itself has a dark header "Change your Password" and contains two rows of input fields. The first row is for the "New Password" (labeled "Your new Password. Used during Login.") with an empty text input field. The second row is for the "Confirm Email Address" (labeled "Confirm your new Password") with an empty text input field. A "Save" button is located below the form fields.

Change your Password	
New Password Your new Password. Used during Login.	<input type="text"/>
Confirm Email Address Confirm your new Password	<input type="text"/>

Use this form to enter a new password to use as your user password during login.

Found a Bug? Have a Feature Suggestion?

Bug Reporting

Did you find a bug within the application? if so - then we do apologize for the inconvenience. The best way to report bugs is by getting in touch with our support team. You can let us know of the issue at the following URL: <http://www.dimbal.com/support>

Feature Suggestions

The Dimbal products are driven by customer suggestions and input. The features that are requested the most are the ones that we prioritize for future releases. Let us know if you have a great feature idea so we can work on including it in a future release. The best way to make feature suggestions is through our support site at: <http://www.dimbal.com/support>

Other Dimbal Applications

Here at Dimbal Software we are always trying to create new and useful applications to help you run and manage an effective and profitable website. If you liked the Dimbal Stats Manager then you will love some of these other software options available from Dimbal Software.

Visit <http://www.dimbal.com> for more information.



Dimbal Banner Manager

A Powerful Banner Ad Management solution. Allows you to manage and host your own banner ad from within your own host. Display banners individually or by randomly by group. Detailed reporting to give CTR and other critical metrics.



Dimbal Popup Controller

Create and manage custom popups on your website with just a snippet of code. Control how often the popup is shown, when it appears a second time, when it should be shown during a pageview, where on the page it should be positioned and much more.



Dimbal Poll Manager

Allows you to easily host and manage online polls with little to no effort. Show graph based results to users, schedule start / end dates and group polls into logical groups for random display.



Dimbal Form Processor

Allows you to handle form submissions with minimal effort. Process results, save information into a database and more.



Dimbal Link Manager

Powerful Link Management software that allows you to track clicks on links, minimize long URL's and even create QR codes with full hit tracking supported.



Dimbal FAQ Management

Save money on your customer service requests by providing a robust FAQ system. Allows for both standalone display or embedded display so you can place FAQ articles right into product pages and blog posts.



Dimbal Control Panel

The Dimbal Control Panel allows for easy management of all your Dimbal Software Products. Provide a single dashboard to launch and manage your applications.